

# STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE LAW IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 28 May – 01 June 2018

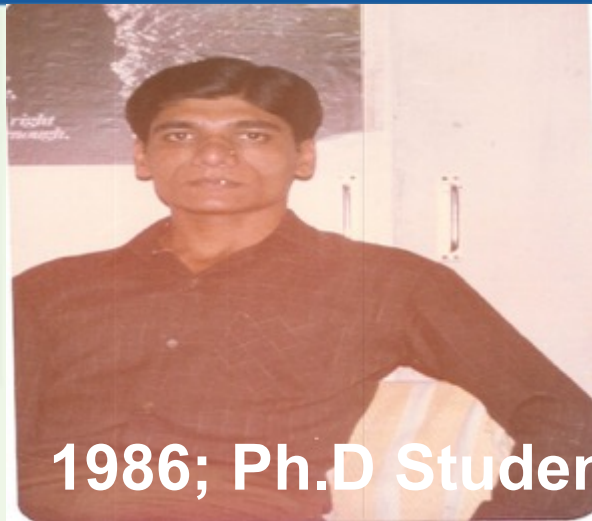
SESSION 2B: GLOBAL & REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



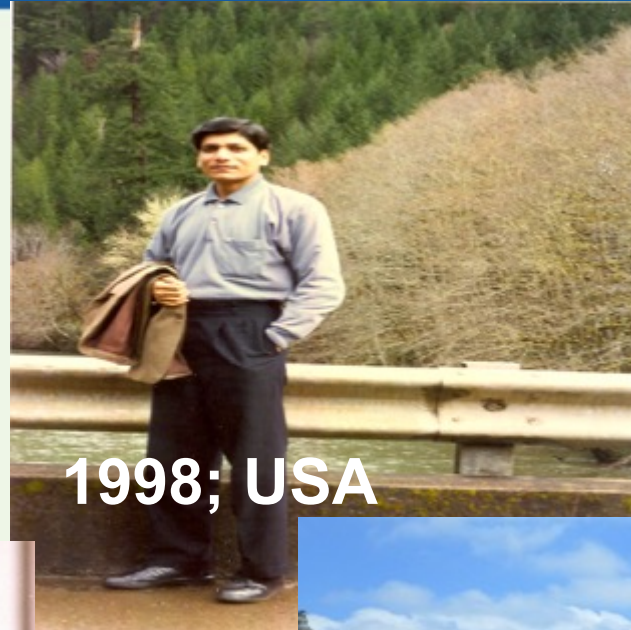
Presented By:

Prof. Bharat H Desai, Jawaharlal Nehru University

# PAST AS PRESENT



1986; Ph.D Student



1998; USA



2002 Neemrana Conf.



2016; Paris

## □ Session Content

- Enhanced awareness of current critical environmental issues, at global, regional and national levels

## □ Teaching Methodology

- Demonstration of “structured small group discussion” and report back methodology



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK



# GEO-6

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR

# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



- ❑ UNEP (now UN Environment) launched the first GEO (Global Environment Outlook) in 1995.
- ❑ GEO regional assessments provide detailed analysis of regional environmental challenges as well as key findings and policy messages for each of the 6 UNEP regions.
- ❑ These are important for policy makers working in the regions to provide solid evidence and policy options which will help tackle environmental issues faced in the regions.



# GEO-6 – Overview -II

- ❑ Provides a comprehensive picture of the environmental factors contributing to human health and well-being
- ❑ Demonstrates economic growth and improved access to basic services in the region
- ❑ Highlights the complexity of the interlinked environmental, social and economic challenges
- ❑ Accelerating Environmental Degradation widely across the Region
- ❑ Adverse Impacts on Human Wellbeing
- ❑ Adverse Impacts on Eco-systems, Wildlife, Natural Resources
- ❑ Lack of Water Resources is a major concern
- ❑ Marine Environment –Pollution, dwindling fish stocks; high seas need special protection



- ❑ Changing demography, lifestyles and access to basic services
- ❑ Increasing inefficiency in the use of resources
- ❑ Increasing vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards and extreme events
- ❑ Increasing environmentally related health risks
- ❑ Widening gaps across the landscape of policies and legislation and their implementation



# GEO 6: Policy-Relevant Questions

In the GEO-6 assessment, the judgment of experts is applied to existing knowledge to provide scientifically credible answers to policy-relevant questions:

- **What is happening to the environment and why?**
- **What are the consequences for the environment and the human population of Asia and the Pacific?**
- **What is being done and how effective is it?**
- **What are the future prospects for the environment?**
- **What actions can be taken to achieve a more sustainable future?**



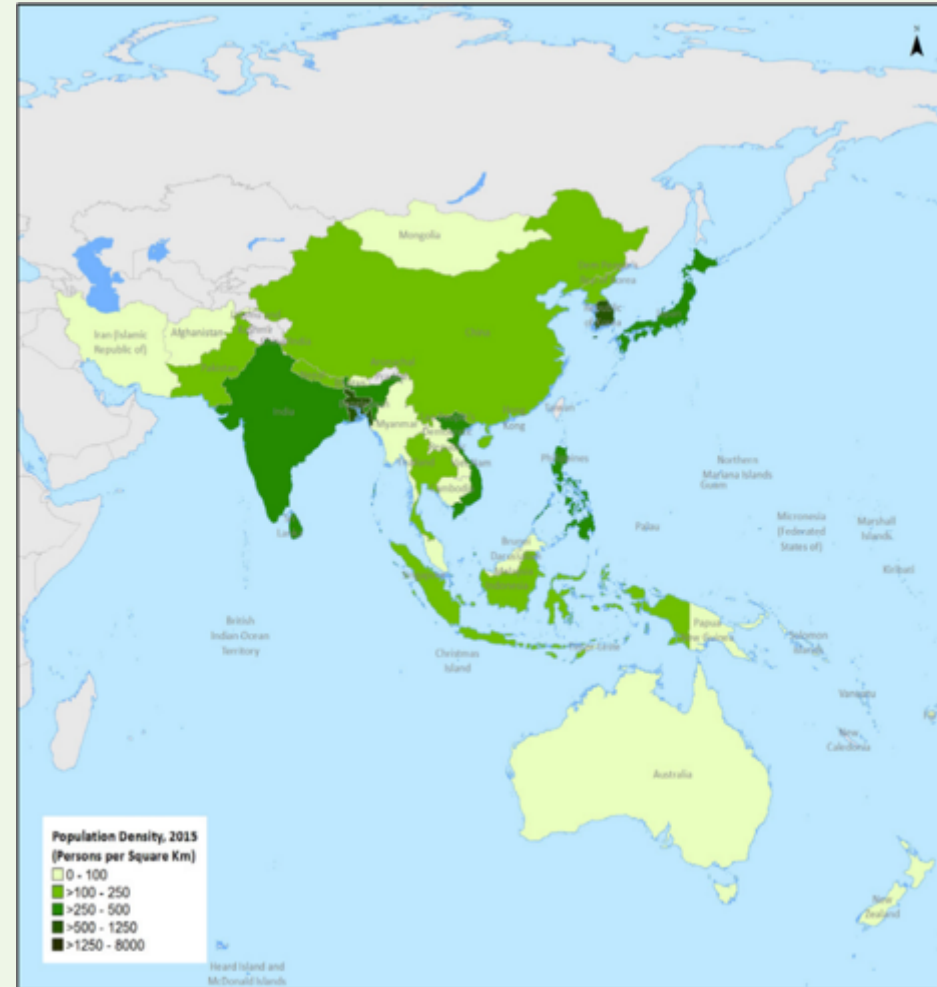


# Asia and the Pacific region

## □ Asia Pacific priority:

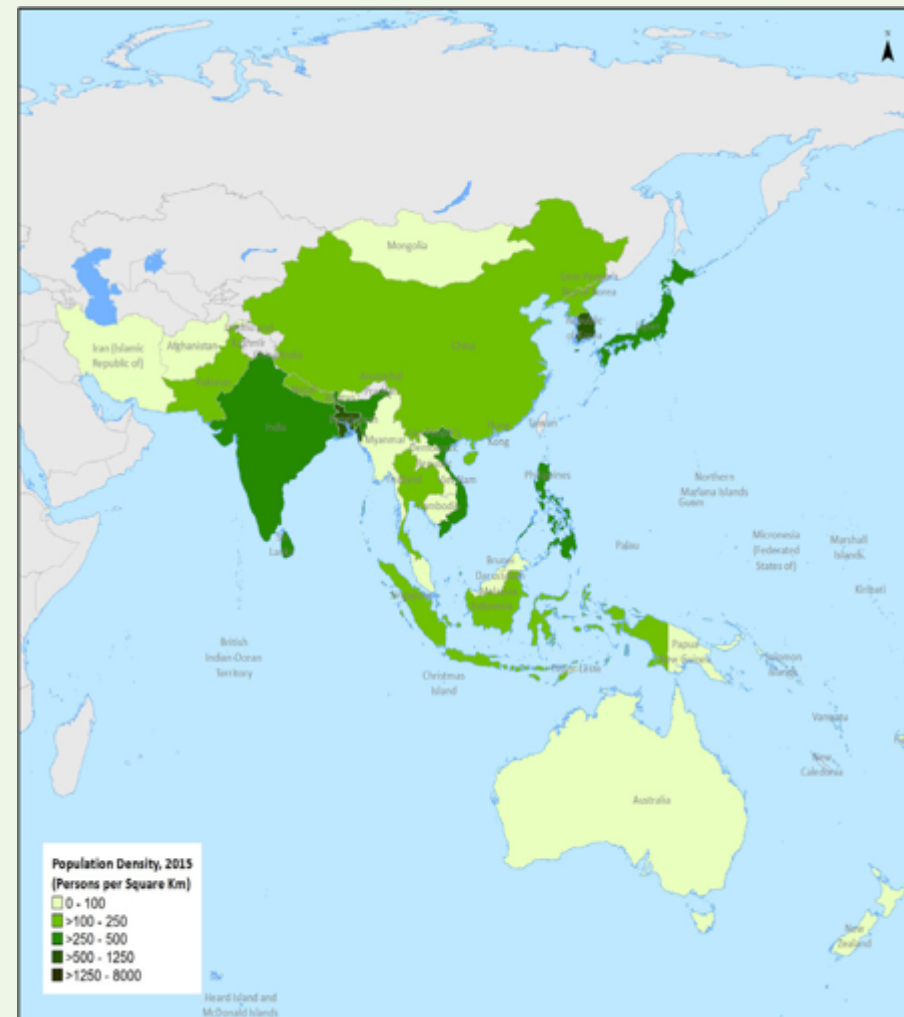
Increasing vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards and extreme events.

□ UNEP shows: Between 1990-2014, natural disasters affecting 4.5 billion people caused USD \$1076 billion economic losses.



# Five GEO-6 Sub-regions in Asia & Pacific

1. Australia and New Zealand
2. Northeast Asia: China, DPR Korea, Japan, Mongolia and Republic of Korea
3. **South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**
4. Southeast Asia: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Viet Nam
5. Pacific: Cooks Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



**Scenario 1: Parched and unhealthy.** “In South Asia, home to nearly 1.6 billion people, cities are increasingly feeling the pressure of population growth and urbanization. Estimated 22 of 32 Indian cities face daily water shortages.

**Scenario 2: Agricultural competition for water access.** The strong push to intensify/expand agriculture results in deforestation and encroachment of natural ecosystems and increases agrochemical pollution, affecting the quality of watercourses and contaminating aquifers. On

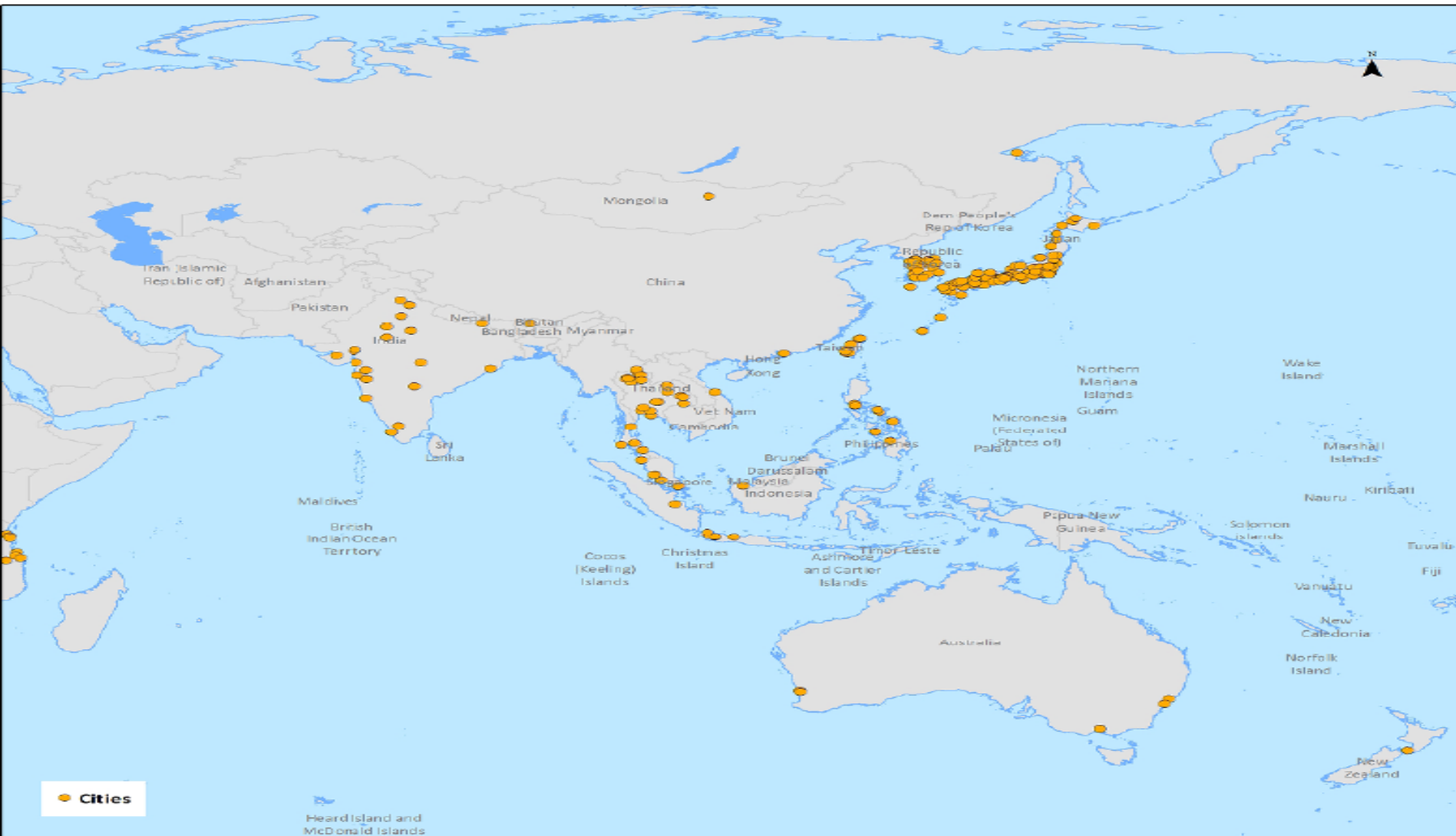


- **Scenario 3: Industrial and urban competition for water access.** For instance, Groundwater elevation in Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city, fell by up to 45 metres between 2003 and 2011.
- **Scenario 4: Water and sanitation for all** (efficient use of water through appropriate pricing and conservation). This relates to SDG 6 on water and sanitation. All targets, however, are applicable to this sub-region's water quality, water-use efficiency, transboundary cooperation, ecosystem management and community participation (Asia Foundation 2015). “



# South Asian Region -III

Figure 4.5.3: Cities reporting climate action to the Carbon and Cities Climate Registry, 2014



Source: ICLEI 2015

# South Asian Region -IV

Table 4.4.2: Environment-related targets in the SDGs, and Asia and the Pacific issues

SDG	Environment-related targets (direct and indirect)	Asia and the Pacific issues
1. Poverty	Access to land and natural resources (1.4); resilience to climate and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5)	Land degradation and desertification intensify poverty
2. Hunger and food	Sustainable food production systems (2.4); genetic diversity (2.5); agricultural trade (2.b); commodity markets (2.c)	Difficulty in buying safe food; health problems from chemical use; overfishing
3. Health	Deaths and illness from pollution (3.9); water-borne diseases (3.3)	Air, water, land pollution; waste and sanitation; e-waste
4. Education	Education for sustainable development (ESD) (4.7); scholarships (4.b)	Increasing prosperity and middle class; people can be influenced by ESD
5. Gender	Women's equal rights to economic resources, property and natural resources (5.a)	Gender and environment issues; indoor air pollution/cook stoves
6. Water and sanitation	Access to safe water (6.1) and sanitation (6.2); water quality (6.3); water-use efficiency and scarcity (6.4); integrated water management (6.5); ecosystems (6.6); capacity building (6.a); local participation (6.b)	Health impacts from water pollution; severe water scarcity; water-energy-food nexus
7. Energy	Renewable energy (7.2); energy efficiency (7.3) and related investment (7.a); infrastructure and technology (7.b)	Energy access; energy use; increased renewables and efficiency
8. Economic growth and jobs	Resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation (8.4); sustainable tourism (8.9); aid for trade (8.a)	Resource efficiency is a priority; green jobs
9. Infrastructure and industry	Sustainable and resilient infrastructure (9.1); industrialization (9.2); sustainability upgrading and resource efficiency (9.4); research, technology and innovation (9.5)	Asia's large infrastructure needs should be addressed sustainably
10. Inequality	Migration (10.7) (which has environmental causes and effects)	Illegal trade in hazardous waste; impact of land degradation on poor people
11. Cities	Sustainable transport (11.2) and urbanization (11.3); safeguards against disasters and diseases (11.5); environmental issues (air pollution, waste) (11.6); green public spaces (11.7); urban and non-urban environmental planning links (11.a); integrated policies for resource efficiency, climate and disaster resilience (11.b); support to the least developed countries for sustainable and resilient buildings (11.c)	Asian megacities; severe urban air pollution; high priority for climate and disaster resilience; increasing leadership by cities
12. Sustainable consumption and production (SCP)	SCP 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) (12.1); sustainable management and use of natural resources (12.2); food waste (12.3); waste and chemicals management (12.4); waste prevention, reduce, recycle, reuse (12.5); corporate social responsibility (12.6); sustainable public procurement (12.7); awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles (12.8); scientific and technological capacity for SCP (12.a); sustainable tourism and local products (12.b); rationalization of fossil-fuel subsidies (12.c)	High priority for SCP; severe waste problem; high fossil-fuel subsidies; efforts towards clean production
13. Climate	Resilience to disasters and climate hazards (13.1); integration of climate in policies (13.2); education, awareness and human and institutional capacity (13.3); Green Climate Fund of USD100 billion per year (13.a)	High priority for small island developing states (SIDS); high priority for adaptation; sea-level rise
14. Oceans	Marine pollution (14.1); marine and coastal ecosystems (14.2); ocean acidification (14.3); fishing (14.4); conserve 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas (14.5); prohibit some fisheries subsidies (14.6); economic benefits from sustainable use and management for SIDS (14.7); science, research, technology transfer (14.a.); international law and regimes (14.c)	High priority for SIDS; increasing ocean garbage; impact of pollution on fish; coral reefs

# SDGs as a Driver for Better Environmental Regulation

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



- Decarbonize development
- Improve resource efficiency
- Protect and enhance natural capital and ecosystem integrity
- Build resilience to natural hazards & extreme climate events.
- Respond to environmental health risks
- Strengthen environmental governance for effective policy diffusion at multiple scales
- Strengthen science-policy interface and access to knowledge
- Enhance international/regional cooperation on climate, air quality and other environmental issues





- SAARC Environment Action Plan (1997)
- Dhaka Declaration & SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change 2008
- Delhi Statement on Cooperation in Environment (2009)
- Thimphu Statement on Climate Change (2010)
- SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment (2010):  
Entered into force on 23 October 2013. Identifies 19 areas for cooperation in the field of environment & sustainable development ; exchange of best practices and knowledge; capacity building and transfer of eco-friendly technology.
- SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters (2011)

